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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

NOLAN RAMOS,

Defendant.

) CASE NO. 22-CR-00228-WHO
) [FILED JUNE 15, 2022]

) NOTICE OF RELATED CASE IN A CRIMINAL
) ACTION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

NELSON CASTENEDA,

Defendant.

) CASE NO. 22-CR-00324-SI
) [FILED AUGUST 29, 2022]

) NOTICE OF RELATED CASE IN A CRIMINAL
) ACTION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

OSCAR FERNANDO VIERA RODRIGUEZ,

Defendant.

) CASE NO. 22-CR-00325-RS
) [FILED AUGUST 30, 2022]

) NOTICE OF RELATED CASE IN A CRIMINAL
) ACTION

NOTICE OF RELATED CASES

1	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)	CASE NO. 22-CR-00327-SI
2	Plaintiff,)	[FILED AUGUST 31, 2022]
3	v.)	NOTICE OF RELATED CASE IN A CRIMINAL
4	EDGARDO JOSE AGUILAR CRUZ,)	ACTION
5	Defendant.)	
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7 Pursuant to Local Criminal Rule 8-1, the United States hereby notifies the Court that the four
8 above-captioned criminal cases are related. On October 12, 2021, the four defendants in the above-
9 captioned case were charged by complaint (originally filed under 21-mj-71624) with one count of
10 conspiracy to distribute controlled substances in violation of 21 U.S.C. §§ 846 and 841(a)(1) and
11 (b)(1)(c). In June of 2022, Nolan Ramos elected to waive indictment and proceed by Information and
12 his case was assigned to the Honorable William H. Orrick, U.S. District Judge for the Northern District
13 of California (22-CR-00228-WHO). Ramos pleaded guilty and on August 25, 2022, he was sentenced.
14 In August of 2022, the other defendants, Nelson Casteneda (22-CR-00324-SI), Fernando Viera (22-CR-
15 00325-RS), and Edgardo Aguilar-Cruz (22-CR-00327-SI) also elected to waive indictment and proceed
16 by Information.

17 As set out in the criminal complaint, each of these cases stems from the same criminal
18 investigation. For several years, the DEA and other law enforcement agencies have been investigating
19 networks of drug trafficking organizations selling controlled substances in the Tenderloin. As part of
20 the instant investigation, a CS identified Fernando Viera ("Fernando") (22-CR-00325-RS) as a mid-level
21 drug trafficker in the Bay Area. At the same time, DEA agent acting in an undercover capacity began
22 purchasing fentanyl from Edgardo Aguilar-Cruz ("Aguilar-Cruz") (22-CR-00327-SI). The investigation
23 included two Court-authorized interceptions of wire and electronic communications over Fernando's
24 and Aguilar-Cruz's phones. The interceptions revealed that Fernando coordinated drug transactions
25 with Aguilar-Cruz, Casteneda, and Ramos.

26 Because of the overlapping discovery and because these cases involve many of the same events
27 and occurrences, the cases are related within the meaning of Local Rule 8-1(b)(2). Furthermore, the
28 cases are related within the meaning of Local Rule 8-1(b)(2) because, if heard by separate judges, the

1 actions likely would involve substantial duplication of labor. Per the requirement of Local Criminal
2 Rule 8-1(c)(4), government counsel states that assignment of these cases to a single judge is likely to
3 conserve judicial resources and promote an efficient determination of each action.

4
5 DATED: September 7, 2022

Respectfully submitted,

6 STEPHANIE M. HINDS
7 Acting United States Attorney

8
9 /s/
MAYA KARWANDE
10 Assistant United States Attorney